

QURAN; AS THE FIRST DOCUMENTARY ON LIFE OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD ﷺ

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ABSTRACT:

Who can describe the greatness of our blessed messenger Muhammad ﷺ better than Allah SWT himself. Quran, the most read book in this universe, is replete with the glorification of his noble character. Allah SWT has exalted his mention. There is not a time when his blessed name is not mentioned around the globe – *Ashadu anna Muhammad ar Rasool Allah!* This article collects and reflects upon some verses from the glorious Quran that open on us a window into his blessed life. No book of biography can be as authentic and filled with as much meaning as the word of Allah SWT himself. We have accordingly embarked upon this humble effort in order to encourage our brethren to dive deep in to the book of Allah and illuminate their lives by following the footsteps of the noblest of all the messengers – Muhammad ﷺ, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him and his companions, and may his mention be exalted.

INTRODUCTION:

The life, the way of living, the conduct, the behavior, the habits the blessed words, his sayings and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, have been a great motivation for Muslims around the globe. His wisdom and nobility does not have a match and his superior character is without a parallel. This epic of character was not something that he developed after the prophethood. The glowing nature of his personality was evident on everyone from the very early days of his age. No rational, sane and just reader of history can turn the pages about his time without praising the noble character and leadership of our beloved Messenger ﷺ.

Accounts on his life and sayings come to us from countless biographies written on his blessed life and collections of his pearls of wisdom in hadith books. Sahl ibn Abi (died in Muawiya's reign i.e. 41-60h)ⁱ was a first who prepared a document on the battles of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. After that a number of biographies were documented and narrated by scholars persistently in all corners of the world and this continues till today. Some writers wrote about the biography, some praised his noble character and some collected and analyzed his noble traditions. There is no one person in the whole world who has been written more about than the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Even today hundred of books are being written every day on his esteemed character and noble personality as we write this paper.

All this proves what Allah SWT has mentioned in the Quran when He says:

ⁱⁱ وَرَفَعْنَا لَكَ ذِكْرَكَ

“And We have exalted your remembrance for you (O dear Prophet Mohammad ﷺ).”

This can be looked at from various perspectives:

1. He (Muhammad ﷺ) is the last prophet and there is no other prophet to come till hereafter. It was necessary to keep his message intact forever. Allah accordingly preserved it in his book and opened the hearts of our righteous predecessors to capture every single moment of life and document it. We do not know more about any other person in the world than our beloved Messenger Muhammad ﷺ, to the extent that we know how he used to eat, how he used to sit, how he used to put his shoes on, how used to walk, how he used to sleep, how he used to wake up, how he used to comb and every single detail. It is a great blessing from Allah that he preserved the noble life of his messenger.
2. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was sent for the whole universe, as Quran says: ⁱⁱⁱ كَذَٰلِكَ لِنُظَاهِرَ لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ آيَاتِنَا. Accordingly, his guidance and teachings are not just for Muslims, they are for everyone including humans and any other creatures that have been given intellect and power to choose by Allah SWT.
3. Prophet ﷺ was sent for guidance^{iv} and for blessings^v, as mentioned in Quran. The biggest blessing we get because of him, may Allah exalt his mention ﷺ, is clarity on the way that connects us to our creator.
4. Almighty Allah makes it obligatory in the Quran that believers should follow Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Confirmation of what he brought requires obedience to him because this is part of what he brought. Allah SWT says:
 - "O you who believe, obey Allah and His Messenger ... " [Al-Qur'an 8:20].
 - "Say: obey Allah and obey the Messenger ... " [Al-Qur'an 24:54].
 - He, SWT, says, "Obey Allah and the Messenger and perhaps you will be shown mercy." [Al-Qur'an 3:132].
 - "If you obey him, you will be guided ... " [Al-Qur'an 24:54].
 - "Whoever obeys the Messenger has obeyed Allah ... " [Al-Qur'an 4:79],
 - "That what the Messenger brings you and leave what he forbids you ... " [Al-Qur'an 59:7]
 - "Whoever obeys Allah and the Messenger is with those whom Allah has blessed." [Al-Qur'an 4:68]
 - "We did not send any Messenger but for him to be obeyed by the permission of Allah." [Al-Qur'an 4:63]

He made obeying His Messenger ﷺ tantamount to obeying Himself, and He placed obedience to Himself alongside obedience to His Messenger ﷺ. Such is the status of our beloved Messenger Muhammad ﷺ.

His character is the best of examples for us:

"لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ"^{vi}

"Indeed in the Messenger of Allah (Muhammad ﷺ) you have good example to follow"

We accordingly need to make a sincere effort to understand his noble message and dedicate our lives to the cause that he came to us with. It is our duty now to take his noble message around the globe. In the Holy Prophet's (ﷺ) biography is a role model for all Muslims to deal with all situations that can come in our way, and it is necessary for us to learn the beautiful and life changing lessons from his *Uswah* at individual as well as societal level. The noble companions, may Allah be pleased with them, were taught by Prophet Muhammad ﷺ directly and they, accordingly, became a source of guidance for generations to come by transmitting, teaching and spreading what they learnt in the blessed companionship of the best of creations, Muhammad ﷺ.

With regards to the question, "How forth coming generation will learn the biography of Prophet ﷺ", when it comes to human minds, the first and most authentic source that comes to our minds is Quran – the book of Allah SWT revealed on his blessed messenger ﷺ.

Aisha (رضي الله عنها) was asked, "What was the character of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ", she replied:

"قَالَتْ أَلَسْتُ تَقْرَأُ الْقُرْآنَ فَإِنَّ خُلُقَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ كَانَ الْقُرْآنَ"^{vii}

"Don't you read the Quran? Because code of Muhammad ﷺ was according to Quran".

It clearly means that if someone wants to know about the life of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his noble character, he has to study the Quran. It will only be then that he will understand the biography, morality and characteristics of Prophet ﷺ in true sense.

In the other words, we may say, that "Quran is the first document on life of Prophet ﷺ". Quran was revealed to Holy Prophet ﷺ directly and he was solely the source of explaining it to humanity in the manner that Allah SWT intended. From his light, he glowed other lamps which enlightened all corners of globe. We see the beautiful glimpses from the life of Prophet Muhammad on every page in the Quran. We see his life events, his mission and duties, his struggle against the evil, Allah's communication with him, messages Allah asked him to convey and other matters which open on us a window into his noble life.

In this article, we have collected some verses from the glorious Quran which explain the moral character and mission of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

ASPECTS OF PROPHETIC BIOGRAPHY FROM THE HOLY QURAN:

His Blessed Names:

Allah has called his messenger with many beautiful names in the Quran. Yeniterzi (2015)^{viii} mentions that Prophet's (ﷺ) names that come in Quran are: "Ahmad, Amin, Bashir, Burhan, Khatem, Dai, Rauf, Rahim, Rasul al-Rahmah, Siraj, Munir, Sirat al-Mustaqim, Ta-Ha, Ya-Sin, Ha-Mim, Abd, 'Urvah al-Wusqa, Qadam al-Sidq, Muhammad, Muddaththir, Muzammil, Mustafa, Mujtaba, Nabi al-Ummi, Nadhir, Ni'matullah and Hâdî".

Allah SWT says:

مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ix

"Muhammad (ﷺ) is the Messenger of Allah"

We believe in this with all our heart – the heart that is filled with utmost love for the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and a determination to become his true 'Ghulam'. Ghulam surrenders to what his master commands him to do. And it is our fortune that our master is the best of masters, the most noble person to ever walk on this earth – Muhammad, the Messenger of God! May Allah exalt his mention and sends his peace and blessings on him, ﷺ.

His ﷺ birth place:

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was born in Makkah city. Almighty Allah took oath of this noble city highlighting its importance. Allah says:

لَا أُقْسِمُ بِهَذَا الْبَلَدِ x

"I swear by this city (Makkah)"

Duties of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:

God commanded his prophet Muhammad ﷺ that whatever is being revealed to you, you should proclaim to the people. It is your duty. As mentioned in Quran:

يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ xi

"O Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ) Proclaim (the message) which has been sent down to you from your Lord."

Intentions of Prophet mentioned by Allah:

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was looking around for the revelation and longing for the command to face Kaaba as it was the direction towards which his forefather Ibrahim A.S. prayed. Allah mentions this in Quran as:

قَدْ نَرَى تَقَلُّبَ وَجْهِكَ فِي السَّمَاءِ فَلَنُوَلِّيَنَّكَ قِبْلَةً تَرْضَاهَا فَوَلِّ وَجْهَكَ شَطْرَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ وَحَيْثُ مَا كُنْتُمْ

فَوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ شَطْرَهُ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ لَيَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ وَمَا اللَّهُ بِغَافِلٍ عَمَّا يَعْمَلُونَ^{xii}

“Verily! We have seen the turning of your (Muhammad’s ﷺ) face towards the heaven: now Shall We turn thee to a Qibla that shall please thee. Turn then Thy face in the direction of the sacred Mosque: Wherever ye are, turn your faces in that direction. The people of the Book know well that, that is the truth from their Lord. Nor is Allah unmindful of what they do.”

Sight:

Muhammad ﷺ was in such complete control of himself and so exclusively attentive that he kept his mind and his sight focused upon the mission for which he had been summoned, and he did not let his sight wander to any side. Said quality is mentioned in Quran as:

مَا زَاغَ الْبَصَرُ وَمَا طَغَى^{xiii}

“The sight (of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ) turned not aside (right or left), nor it transgressed beyond the limit (ordained for it).”

Opening of chest:

Allah freed Prophet Muhammad ﷺ from every kind of distraction and vacillation and opened his heart to the realities of this world and the here-after.

أَلَمْ نَشْرَحْ لَكَ صَدْرَكَ^{xiv}

“Did We not expand for you, [O Muhammad], your breast?”

Lenient heart:

Kind nature of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is discussed in the Quran. He was lenient, compassionate and loving towards his followers encompassing those that with him at that as well as those who were to spread far and wide on earth for centuries and centuries and raise his blessed name and write his praise in their humble words. Allah SWT says:

وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانْفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ^{xv}

“And had You (O Muhammad ﷺ) been severe and harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from about you.”

Purification of cloths from impurity:

Allah commands his Messenger Muhammad ﷺ to clean his garments because it implies that He is morally good and pure. His believers have to clean themselves to, externally and internally, following the sunnah of their beloved messenger ﷺ:

وَتَبَايَكَ فَطَهِّرْ^{xvi}

“(Muhammad ﷺ) purify your garments”

Sufficiency:

Indeed Allah will suffice Muhammad ﷺ against the mockers. Those who try to insult him are not able to give him slightest of harms. All their efforts are to ruin their ownelves. Allah SWT says:

إِنَّا كَفَيْنَاكَ الْمُسْتَهْزِئِينَ^{xvii}

“Truly! We will suffice you against the scoffers”

Abundances of Good:

Allah has granted abundance of the good to His blessed messenger ﷺ in both the worlds. Beleivers quench their thirsts in this world from the sweetness of his words and rivers of wisdom that flow from his noble sayings. In the hereafter, they will be blessed with the blessed drink from al-kauthar.

إِنَّا آغْطَيْنَاكَ الْكَوْثَرَ^{xviii}

“Verily, We have granted you (O Muhammad ﷺ) Al-Kauthar (a river in Paradise)”

Revelation of Quran:

Quran was brought down by the trustworthy spirit, Gabriel to the heart of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. As it is mentioned in the glorious Quran:

نَزَلَ بِهِ الرُّوحُ الْأَمِينُ۔ عَلَي قَلْبِكَ^{xix}

“Which the trustworthy Ruh (Jibril) has brought down. Upon your heart (O Muhammad ﷺ)”

Religion:

In the sight of Allah, there is only one system of life and way of conduct which is both in accord with reality and morally right. That is Islam – peace and submission to ONE God:

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ^{xx}

“Truly, the religion with Allah is Islam”

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ's submission to message brought down to him:

The Messenger, Muhammad ﷺ believes in and affirms the truth of what was revealed to him from his Lord, the most high. Allah SWT says:

أَمَّنَ الرَّسُولُ بِمَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ رَبِّهِ^{xxi}

“The Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ) believes in what has been sent down to him from his Lord.”

The Prophet ﷺ did not claim to know anything more than what Allah had taught him:

This is made clear when Allah says in the Quran:

قُلْ لَا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ عِنْدِي خَزَائِنُ اللَّهِ وَلَا أَعْلَمُ الْغَيْبَ وَلَا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِنِّي مَلَكٌ ؕ إِنِّي أَنبِئُكُمْ إِلَّا مَا يُوْحَىٰ إِلَيَّ^{xxii}

“Say (O Muhammad ﷺ): I don’t tell you that with me are the treasures of Allah, nor (that) I know the Unseen; nor I tell you that I am an angel. I but follow what is revealed to me”

Determination:

Allah says to his Messenger Muhammad ﷺ to stay firm after he had consulted with his companions and to rely on Allah by putting his trust in Him:

xxiii فَإِذَا عَزَمْتَ فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ

“Then when you have taken a decision, put our trust in Allah”

Sacrifice:

Whole life of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was dedicated to the noble causes given to him by Lord of all the worlds – Allah SWT. There was none of his actions that was for anyone other than Allah SWT.

xxiv قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

“Say (O Muhammad ﷺ) verily, my salat (prayer), my sacrifice, my living, and my dying are for Allah, the Lord of the Aalamin (mankind, jinn and all that exists).”

Allah’s Refuge:

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was an orphan. Allah SWT protected and sheltered him and his uncle Abu Talib embraced him when no one else did. This is mentioned in Quran as:

xxv أَلَمْ يَجِدْكَ يَتِيمًا فَآوَى

“Did He not find you (O Muhammad ﷺ) an orphan and gave you a refuge”

His ﷺ concern for humanity:

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was full of pity, profound compassion, mercy and desiring of all the good for people that they be rightly guided. Quran narrates this as:

xxvi لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ أَنفُسِكُمْ عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ مَا عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ عَلَيْكُم بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ

“Verily, there has come unto you a Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ) from amongst yourselves. It grieves him that you should receive any injury or difficulty. He (Muhammad ﷺ) is anxious over you (to be rightly guided, to repent to Allah, and beg him to pardon and forgive our sins in order that you may enter Paradise and be saved from the punishment of the Hell-fire); for the believers (he ﷺ is) full of pity, kind and merciful”

Quran also says that:

xxvii فَلَعَلَّكَ بَاخِعٌ نَّفْسَكَ عَلَىٰ آثَارِهِمْ إِنْ لَمْ يُؤْمِنُوا بِهَذَا الْحَدِيثِ أَسَفًا

“Perhaps, you, would kill yourself (O Muhammad ﷺ) in grief, over their footsteps (for their turning away from you), because they believe not in this narration (the Quran)”

Character:

Before being appointed as a Prophet, Muhammad ﷺ had spent a full forty years with the people of Makkah. He was born in that city. They had observed his childhood, and then his youth, and it was in their city that he had reached his middle age. He had also dealt with them in a variety of ways and situations. He had had social interaction, business transactions, matrimonial ties, and relationships with his people. Accordingly, no aspect of his life was hidden from their view. Could there be a more powerful testimony to the truth of his claim to prophethood than his blameless life and character. He was known as ‘al-sadiq’ (the truthful) and ‘al-ameen’ (the trustworthy). If a person is known to have such a splendid and scratchless character, why would anyone not believe in him. No sane person would doubt his prophethood.

xxviii فَقَدْ لَبِثْتُ فِيكُمْ عُمُرًا مِّن قَبْلِهِ ۖ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ

“Verily, I have stayed amongst you a life time before this. Have you then no sense?”

His Exalted Mention:

Coming of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is prophecised in previous religious scriptures. His mention is exalted with the name of almighty Allah all over the world in Azan (call for prayer), congregational prayers and countless books have been written on his biography in hundreds of languages from around the world and in all the periods. All this happened because almighty Allah mentioned in Quran that:

xxix وَرَفَعْنَا لَكَ ذِكْرَكَ

“And have We not raised high your fame?”

His ﷺ Wives:

Almighty Allah mentions that those women who Allah made to come in his nikah were not the ordinary women. They were the most blessed of the women on earth and were accordingly made the mothers of believers. Allah SWT mentions:

xxx يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لُكُلِ النَّبِيِّ لَسْتُنَّ كَأَحَدٍ مِّنَ النِّسَاءِ

“O wives of the Prophet! You are not like any other women”

His ﷺ Children:

Not only his wives were noble, so were his offsprings. Allah SWT mentions them with the mention of his wives to affirm their status and honor:

xxxi يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلْ لِّأَزْوَاجِكَ وَبَنَاتِكَ

“O Prophet! Tell your wives and your daughters”

His ﷺ Ascension:

The night journey and the Ascension was a great blessing bestowed upon Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. It was a journey that began from the Masjid al-Haram in Makkah from where he was taken to Masjid Al-Aqsa in Jerusalem and finally he went to the seven heavens. This journey is discussed in Quran as:

xxxii سُبْحَنَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى

“Glorified (and Exalted) be He (Allah) Who took His slave (Muhammad ﷺ) for a journey by night from Al-Masjid-alHaram (at Makkah) to Al-Masjid-al-Aqsa (in Jerusalem)”

Allah sends blessings on him along with His angels:

It is prescribed for the Muslim to pray for peace for the Prophet ﷺ and to send salaams upon him, just as it is prescribed to pray for blessings for him. The evidence that it is prescribed to send salaams upon the Prophet ﷺ is the verse in which Allah says:

xxxiii إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

“Allah and His angels send blessings (salawat – i.e. graces, honors, blessings, mercy) on the Prophet: O ye that believe! Send ye blessings on him, and salute him with all respect”.

A model for all humanity:

Surah Al-Ahzab discusses the important event of the battle of trench, which took place in Shawwal, 5 A.H. During the preparation of this battle and during the time enemy stayed in front of the city, resources of Muslims went really thin. Despite this, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ himself remained at the very forefront, not leaving his companions alone. He tied stones to his belly to overcome hunger. And interestingly, when all of this was happening and Muslims were apparently going through one of the toughest times, he had his vision as a leader right in front of him. He knew that Muslims were to spread across the globe and he greeted them of victories that they were to achieve over the superpowers of that time in the years to follow. This is a clear example of leading from the front and connecting to big picture. Each and every act that he ever did is replete with blessings of both the worlds. Allah SWT says:

xxxiv لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ

“Indeed in the Messenger of Allah (Muhammad ﷺ) you have good example to follow”

Excellence of the prophet’s character:

Allah also told us about the excellence of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ’s character in the following verse:

xxxv وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ

“And Verily, you (O Muhammad ﷺ) are on an exalted (standard of) character”

Sayings of Prophet ﷺ:

All sayings and actions of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ were not from himself, but they were from Allah SWT. As mentioned in this verse:

وَمَا يَنْطِقُ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ ۖ إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا وَحْيٌ يُوحَىٰ^{xxxvi}

“Nor does He (Muhammad ﷺ) speak of (his own) desire. It is only a revelation revealed”

Duties of Prophet ﷺ:

Truly, God is most gracious to the humanity that he has sent to it His most blessed messenger Muhammad ﷺ whose guidance is for all the times to come. Allah describes the role of prophet ﷺ by mentioning that he recited to people His verses, the Qur'an, purified and cleansed them of sins, and taught them the book, the Qur'an, the wisdom, the Sunnah:

لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِّنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُوا عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ ۚ وَإِنْ كَانُوا مِن قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ^{xxxvii}

“(Muhammad ﷺ) reciting unto them His verses (the Quran), and purifying them (from sins by their following him) in instructing them (in) the Book *the Quran) and Al-Hikmah (wisdom and the Sunnah)”

Example of His ﷺ blessed Companions:

The companions, who were the first to receive the Quran, were examples, like the Prophet ﷺ, both in behavior and practice for those who would come after them due to their sincere affiliation with Prophet ﷺ. The companions came from all different walks of life exactly as you would find in a small town today.

Quran speaks about companions as:

مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ۚ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ أَشِدَّاءُ عَلَى الْكُفَّارِ رُحَمَاءُ بَيْنَهُمْ تَرَاهُمْ رُكَّعًا سُجَّدًا يَبْتَغُونَ فَضْلًا مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرِضْوَانًا سِيمَاهُمْ فِي وُجُوهِهِمْ مِّنْ أَثَرِ السُّجُودِ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ مَثَلُهُمْ فِي التَّوْرَةِ ۚ وَمَثَلُهُمْ فِي الْإِنْجِيلِ كَزَرْعٍ أَخْرَجَ شَطْأَهُ فَآزَرَهُ فَاسْتَغْلَظَ فَاسْتَوَىٰ عَلَىٰ سُوقِهِ يُعْجِبُ الزُّرَّاعَ لِيَغِيظَ بِهِمُ الْكُفَّارَ^{xxxviii}.

“Muhammad ﷺ is the Messenger of Allah. And those who are with him are severe against disbelievers, and merciful among themselves. You see them bowing and falling down prostrate (in prayer), seeking Bounty from Allah and (His) Good Pleasure. The mark of them (i.e. of traces of prostration (during prayers). This is their description in the Taurat (Torah). But their description in the Injeel (Gospel) is like a (sown) seed which sends forth its shoot, then makes it strong, and becomes thick and it stands straight on its stem, delighting the sowers, that He may enrage the disbelievers with them.”

The Qualities:

Allah SWT has blessed Prophet ﷺ with such a high rank and raised him to an exalted place of Honor that His sent as witness, bearer, warner and who invites to Allah for the right path. Allah says:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَاهِدًا وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا ۚ وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُّنِيرًا^{xxxix}

“O Prophet, indeed We have sent you as a witness and a bringer of good tidings and a warner. And as a summoner unto Allah by His permission, and as a lamp that giveth light.”

How to invite to the way of Allah:

Allah commanded his prophet ﷺ to invite others to the way of Allah with wisdom, logic and with good arguments. This was the way of prophet ﷺ to call for Islam. Quran narrates:

أُدْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ^{xi}

“Invite (mankind, O Muhammad ﷺ) to the way of your Lord (i.e. Islam) with wisdom (i.e. with the divine Revelation and the Quran) and fair preaching, and argue with them in a way that is better.”

He ﷺ was guided to the path of Abraham (a.s):

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was on straight path which was the path of Abraham (a.s) who exerted against the mushrikoon, as Quran says:

قُلْ إِنِّي هَدَانِي رَبِّي إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ نَ دِينًا قَبِيمًا مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ^{xli}

“Say, Indeed, my Lord has guided me to a straight path - a correct religion - the way of Abraham, inclining toward truth. And he was not among those who associated others with Allah.”

Migration of Prophet ﷺ:

People of Makkah, the birth place of Prophet, were bitterly set against him after he brought the message of tauheed to them despite that fact that they were absolutely convinced of his truthfulness, and trustworthiness, nobility and magnanimity. Muhammad ﷺ prayed to Allah SWT for a good migration and that is mentioned in Quran as:

وَقُلْ رَبِّ أَدْخِلْنِي مُدْخَلَ صِدْقٍ وَأَخْرِجْنِي مُخْرَجَ صِدْقٍ وَاجْعَلْ لِي مِنْ أَدْنِكَ سُلْطَانًا نَصِيرًا^{xlii}

“And say (O Muhammad ﷺ): My Lord! Let my entry (to the city of Al-Madinah) be good, and (likewise) my exit (from the city of Makkah) be good. And grant me from You an authority to help me (for a firm sign or a proof).”

Humanity:

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was a human being, a son of Adam (a.s) as it is clearly mentioned in Quran:

قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا بَشَرٌ مِثْلُكُمْ^{xliii}

“(O Muhammad ﷺ): I am only a man like you.”

Consultation with others:

Quran encourages that the affairs should be decided through shura, i.e. in consultation. Shura is mentioned as a praiseworthy activity that prophet Muhammad ﷺ always practices. Allah says in Quran as:

وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ^{xliv}

“(O Muhammad ﷺ): And consult them in the affairs”

Justice:

Allah SWT commanded Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to be just between people, in passing judgments. And He made justice in everything he did. Allah SWT says:

وَأْمُرْتُ لِأَعْدِلَ بَيْنَكُمُ^{xlv}

“I (Muhammad ﷺ) am commanded to do justice among you.”

Blessings:

Allah warned the unbelievers that until prophet ﷺ was among them, they will not be scourged. This is one of aspects which shows the shower of mercy on even non-believers because of his blessed being.

وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُعَذِّبَهُمْ وَأَنْتَ فِيهِمْ^{xlvi}

“And Allah would not punish them while you (Muhammad ﷺ) are amongst them.”

Prophet as the authority:

Allah bestowed authority to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and commanded the followers that whatever the Messenger gives you, take it; and whatever he forbids you, you should abstain from it. It is a ‘generic statement’ which means that it is not ‘specific’ and everything he gives, be it his words, any form of goods or anything else, we should take it. If his word has come about something, our own opinions and judgments do not carry any weight at all. It mentioned in Quran as:

وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ - وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا^{xlvii}

“And whatsoever the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ) gives you, take it; and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain (from it)”

Messenger for whole mankind and forever:

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was not sent as a prophet for the people of his city, or his country, or his age alone, but for all the people across the globe, ever to come. It is mentioned in the glorious Quran:

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ^{xlviii}

“And we have not sent you (O Muhammad ﷺ) except to all mankind.”

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was the last prophet:

Allah has completed his Deen so there will be no other messenger after Muhammad ﷺ and neither a prophet. He is seal of Prophets (khatam al-nabiyyin). Allah says in Quran as:

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِن رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ^{xlix}

“Muhammad ﷺ is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the last (end) of the Prophets.”

The Prophet ﷺ was sent as a mercy to all Worlds:

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was kindest to all beings. His kind-heartedness was not merely for the believers but also the non-believer, including his staunch enemies. Those who tortured him and his companions in Makkah were declared safe on the day of conquest of Makkah. Abu Sufyan's house was declared as a safe refuge despite all the pain he had given to prophet himself and his companions. Indeed, only a person with the greatest of morals can do this while entering the same place as conqueror from where he was forced to leave.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَⁱ

“And We have sent you (O Muhammad ﷺ) not but as a mercy for the Alamin (Mankind, jinn and all that exists)”

Intercession:

From amongst the tremendous favors Allah has granted our beloved Muhammad ﷺ with is the major intercession on the Day of Judgment. It is one of the great blessings and distinctions that are bestowed to him over all other prophets and messengers. Allah says:

عَسَىٰ أَن يَبْعَثَكَ رَبُّكَ مَقَامًا مَّحْمُودًاⁱⁱ

“It may be that your Lord will raise you to Maqam Mahmud (a station of praise and glory, i.e. the honor of intercession on the Day of Resurrection).”

Demise of Prophet ﷺ:

The Prophet was the fountainhead of Muslim life. He was and is a supreme model for all our social, spiritual, political, economic, military, judicial activities and all the good that one can ever do. Allah has taken him back to Him after he communicated his blessed message to humanity in full. Allah tells us that death is an undeniable reality and even his most beloved messenger had to face death one day.

وَمَا مُحَمَّدٌ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِن قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ أَفَإِن مَّاتَ أَوْ قُتِلَ انْقَلَبْتُمْ عَلَىٰ أَعْقَابِكُمْⁱⁱⁱ

“Muhammad ﷺ is no more than a Messenger, and indeed (many) Messengers have passed away before him. If he dies or is killed, will you then turn back on your heels (as disbelievers)?”

إِنَّكَ مَيِّتٌ وَإِنَّهُمْ مَّيِّتُونَⁱⁱⁱⁱ

“Verily you (O Muhammad ﷺ) will die, and verily they (too) will die.”

Conclusion:

The life and behavior of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is represented with the highest form of sublimity in the glorious Holy Quran. His attributes and life events are explained for the believers to ponder upon and reflect on his beautiful being and his mission. It is now in our hand how we tap into this ocean of knowledge and extract some beautiful pearls for ourselves, the pearls that would be our wealth not only in this short worldly life, but also in the never-ending life of the here-after.

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